



# COMMUNITY NEWS

**District 2**

Vol 27. Scottsdale Police Department District 2 Station 9065 E. Via Linda Scottsdale, AZ 85258 (480) 312-5696 November 2006



## Holiday Safety Tips

By Officer Mark Ruffennach

The holidays should be a season of joy with your loved ones. Unfortunately, the holidays are a favorite time for burglars and thieves. The Scottsdale Police Department offers these ideas to help you have a happy and safe holiday season!

### When Shopping

- When you are shopping at stores or the mall, park your vehicle under lights. It gets dark early in the holiday season and you don't want to get caught walking to a dark area by yourself.
- Don't leave gifts in the back seat of your car in open view. Put them in the trunk or hide them with a towel or blanket. Keeping your parcels out of view reduces the chance of theft from a vehicle.
- If you approach your vehicle and there are people hanging around your car, go back to the store and ask the manager or staff to help. If no one is available, call the police.
- Look at and around your vehicle before getting in. If your doors or windows have any damage, don't get in the car.

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## From The Desk Of Commander Burl Haenel

I encourage everyone to celebrate the holidays with the ones they love. But please celebrate responsibly!

Each year, the Scottsdale Police Department teams up with other Valley police agencies as part of the East Valley DUI Task Force. This is just one of the 16 DUI Task Forces in the State of Arizona. The goal of this task force is to save lives by removing impaired drivers from the road.

In December, 2005, the combined 16 DUI Task Forces made 2,399 arrests. Of those arrested, 843 were for aggravated or extreme DUI. The average blood alcohol content of the people that were arrested was .151 (the legal amount is .08). Remember to choose a designated driver that has not consumed alcohol.

We want to make District 2 and all of Scottsdale a safe place to drive during the holidays. In the meantime, I wish you and your families a safe and happy holiday season.

Sincerely,

**Commander Burl Haenel**[Bhaenel@scottsdaleaz.gov](mailto:Bhaenel@scottsdaleaz.gov)

## Holiday Safety Tips (Continued)

### Your Home

- Place your tree out of view from the street or make sure that drapes or blinds are adjusted to prevent outside viewing all day and night.
- Place decorated empty boxes under the tree and keep the real presents out of view.
- Put the external holiday lights on a timer so that your home looks “lived in” even when you are away.
- Call the Fire Department (480-312-1817) for tips on holiday lights and decorating trees.
- If you plan on taking a vacation during the holiday season, call the Scottsdale Police Department (480-312-5000) to schedule a “Vacation Watch” of your home.

### Charities

- Research a charity before giving them money by checking the websites of the Arizona Secretary of State ([www.azsos.gov](http://www.azsos.gov)) and the Better Business Bureau ([www.arizonabbb.org](http://www.arizonabbb.org)). Please be aware that fraudulent organizations like to use sound alike names.
- Don't give to those who solicit over the phone. You really don't know where your hard earned money is going!
- Never give your credit card, bank account or social security numbers to solicitors who call you.
- Don't rely on your caller ID to verify that the caller is calling from the organization they claim.
- Request a written prospective mailed to you from any company who solicits over the phone.
- You do not have to pay or make a donation to “win” a prize.

If you have any questions, please contact District Two Crime Prevention Officer Mark Ruffennach at (480) 312-5696.

## Stay Safe After The Holidays

If you receive audio/visual/computer equipment that comes in large boxes, treat those boxes carefully after the holidays.

Thieves look for homes that stack boxes next to the curb or by the trash. They make their own holiday wish list and may visit your home later.

Instead, tear down the box and throw it in the outdoor recycle bin.



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### Public Safety Day

Saturday, November 18, 2006

9:00 am to 2:00 pm

Chaparral Park (Hayden & Chaparral)

### Awareness Class – Last One This Year!

Wednesday, Nov 15<sup>th</sup> from 6pm to 9pm

Scottsdale Police Department @ 9065 E. Via Linda

Contact Officer Mark Ruffennach at 480-312-5696

## The Scottsdale Police Department



### Wants You!

The Scottsdale Police Department has excellent job opportunities in the following fields:

Police Officer, Police Aide, Communications, Detention Officers, Crime Lab, Records, and Crime Scene Specialists. Visit our website at

[www.Scottsdalepd.com](http://www.Scottsdalepd.com) or contact Officer Greg Carlin at 480-312-5384 [gcarlin@scottsdaleaz.gov](mailto:gcarlin@scottsdaleaz.gov).